

changes said service provider's said schedule upon receiving at least some input from said service receivers.

46. (New) A method of providing a plurality of service receivers with remote appointment scheduling capabilities according to claim 25 wherein said step of providing said service receivers with the ability to schedule appointments comprises immediately changing said service provider's schedule of available appointments in response to at least some input by a service receiver.

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully submit the present Preliminary Amendment in preparation for the personal interview between Applicants, Applicants' representatives, Examiner Shaffer and Examiner Hafiz. At that interview, Applicants' programmer would like to demonstrate a prototype of Applicants' invention. Applicants also wish to discuss the amended claim language and the differences between the amended claims and Ralston, et al. which served as a basis for all rejections in the second Office Action in the parent application. The following is a table outlining aspects of Applicants claimed invention, differences between those claimed aspects and the Ralston reference, and exemplary claims.

Aspects of Applicants' Claimed Invention	Ralston	Applicable Claims
<p>Unrestricted access by the public service receivers.</p> <p>Simple one step process</p>	<p>Requires predetermined access code in order to see the service provider's schedule See Ralston Col. 4, lines 44-46.</p> <p>Ralston discloses a two-step process where SR inputs desire time for an appointment and system gets back to SR with appointment candidates. See Ralston Col. 3, lines 9-35.</p>	<p>1 et seq. 25 et seq.</p>
<p>Allows SR's to request standby appointments</p>	<p>Does not suggest allowing SR's to request standby appointments and then provide notice of whether the appointment opened up or is no longer available. The discussion in Ralston Col. 6, lines 56-64 regarding walk-in clients is only effective at the actual time of the appointments. On the contrary, the present invention makes provision for cancellation and rebooking of an appointment time slot.</p>	<p>11, 12, 13, 39-40</p>
<p>Integration of SR schedule with SP schedule to e.g., avoid conflicts.</p>	<p>The discussion in Col. 4, lines 47-57 regarding input of "client information" makes no suggestion of inputting the client's own personal schedule or for the schedule of a person related to the SR, e.g. son, daughter, etc.</p>	<p>16, et seq. 28, 44</p>
<p>Provision for SP's personal schedules</p>	<p>No teaching or suggestion of this in Ralston.</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>Plurality of SR's have access to each other's schedule.</p>	<p>No teaching of this or suggestion of this in Ralston.</p>	<p>23</p>
<p>Plurality of SP's have coded access to each other's schedules.</p>	<p>No teaching of this or suggestion of this in Ralston.</p>	<p>23</p>

Aspects of Applicants' Claimed Invention	Ralston	Applicable Claims
Provision for integrating the SR's schedule which is automatically updated when an appointment is made.	No teaching or suggestion of this in Ralston.	28
Competitors on same system	No teaching or suggestion of this in Ralston	34
Present system can require payment.	No suggestion or teaching in Ralston to <u>require</u> payment.	37-38

Support for the new dependent claims is on page 19, line 22- to page 21, line 3; page 22, lines 12-14.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims as amended, are now in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or comments which may expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Applicants' attorney at the telephone number set forth below.

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Respectfully submitted,



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